

C.D.A.R.S.

May 2026

CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Mills on the Air Weekend at Brill 9th/10th May

We meet the 2nd Wednesday each month at The Golden Eagle Pub in Ashley Green and every 4th Wednesday each month at the Ashley Green Memorial Hall, Ashley Green, HP5 3PP



For Sale & Wanted

Still Lots of Items
Up For Grabs

Regulars

*Dates For Your Diary
*Radio Rally Dates
*Contest Results

Want to write something for the newsletter?
Then you can contact me on
cdarsnews@gmail.com

Can't find that elusive part or have anything for sale?
Why not drop me an email and put it in
'For sale and wanted'.

Learn About.....

What are you interested in? Here are a few useful links:



FISTS CW Club

Promoting Morse Code for 36 years 1987-2023

<https://fists.co.uk>

VK3TBS

Learn About VARAC

<https://vk3tbs.home.blog/2024/03/06/vara-varac/>

Essex Ham

FT-8 Basics

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/ft8-basics-explained>

Essex Ham

What is PSK31? The Basics.

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/psk31-the-basics>

Welcome to LCWO.net

Learn Morse Code (CW) Online!

<https://lcwo.net/>

Electronic Notes

What is RTTY? The Basics.

https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/ham_radio/digimode/s/what-is-rtty-radio-teletype.php

Meshtastic and MeshCore

Information and Downloads to build your own LoRa Node or Repeater

<https://meshtastic.org/>
<https://meshcore.co.uk/>



Morse Code by Ray Burlingame-Goff (SK - 29th July 2021)

<http://www.g4fon.net/>

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Welcome

Welcome to the May edition of the CDARS Newsletter. Firstly apologies for the low content this month. It just happens this way sometimes. It hasn't been helpful on me being away in Scotland for nearly the last two weeks and producing the newsletter remotely. Flakey wifi doesn't help!!

However, a newsletter there is. Thanks especially to Dave G8FMC for producing his usual pages.

As mentioned elsewhere there is the Brill MOTA weekend coming up on 9th and 10th with just a month later the National Field Day. We would really appreciate as many attendees as possible for both events. A great time to play radio outdoors.

Hopefully we will be back to a full newsletter next month.

Roger M8TGU

PS: As many photos from the Brill MOTA weekend would be appreciated. Send to cdarsnews@gmail.com



Roger M8TGU

Chairmans Ramble

Latest on my sick Icom IC-706 & other matters:

Well, I visited John G4KXP in Droitwich & we both made the short trip from his QTH to Radio World. We dropped off my sick IC706, had a browse of both new & S/H kit, but managed to keep our credit cards in our wallets! Radio World have moved some years ago, a few miles down the road from where they use to be. It is not a very big store & computer games is a big part of the present business. Still an enjoyable visit.



Dave G8FMC

Apparently the 'Fix it' man swings by about once per month to pick up repairs, thus the turn-round is rather slow at 6 – 8 weeks. Ah well, I shall just have to give the clubs IC-9700 a full road test over the next few weeks! (And remember to take it to the Brill Windmill) Oh, and it was very good to see my close friend (who married my late wife's cousin) and enjoy a long overdue catch-up.

Whilst there, the 6m UKAC was on, so I attempted to operate my FTDX-10 from John's QTH. He is close to the canal in Droitwich at about 34ft ASL; a pretty dire location for VHF. His 50MHz antenna is a Moxon just 4 or 5m AGL & partially shielded by both his & his neighbours houses! Back in the day I would sign G8FMC/A, for an 'Alternative' location. These days Ofcom don't seem interested in what suffix we use. Since the /A is almost never heard these days, I decided to sign G8FMC/P in IO82WG, as less chance of errors? John had warned me that he has lots of noise on 6m (doesn't everyone?) We set up earlier in the afternoon & yes the noise was a bit grim. Before the start of the contest, the noise did not seem quite so bad. However just as we kicked-off at 8.00pm local, the noise seemed to step up by 1 or 2 S points!

We really struggled with just a handful of contacts, the best DX being Jason (from NRC) G7LII/P at just 69Km. We tried with John G0ODQ, who could copy us OK, but we could not copy his report through the dire noise (which seemed to peak roughly South!)

We did a quick check on Friday morning when we were about to pack the kit up. The noise level seemed to have dropped back to the 'Very Bad' level rather than 'Dire'? John suddenly said "I wonder?" & dashed off downstairs. He switched on the coal-effect lights of a gas fire in the lounge. Low, the noise rose about 2 x S-points & the strange pulsing nature had also returned! So most of our noise was self-inflicted, within his own house!!! The thing is both he & Karen knew about this issue & he did not check if the flame effect was switched on the night before. Of course Karen was curled up in front of the TV & had the 'cosy-glow' on! I guess we should have been able to complete with John G0ODQ, even if not many more, had it been switched off? Chinese LED driver switch-mode PSU no doubt? John is unable to do much about it as it seems that to get to the PSU one needs to disconnect the gas supply, take the fire out of the fire-place & remove the back panel! Anyhow, we deemed that it was all Karen's fault! She was suitably reprimanded.

I have just got back from a trip to Romsey, in Hampshire. Unfortunately this was for a 'Celebration of the life' of a very close friend that passed away very recently. I found myself as the opening after dinner speaker, tasked with saying a few words about Paul, who I first met at school when I was just 11 years old! Out of the 38 people there I had known Paul longer than everyone else; except for his elder sister, who had obviously known him since birth! Paul was a great guy with lots of interests, bags of charisma, very quick wit and managed to have a fairly constant supply of lady friends on-hand throughout his life. .

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A lovely guy, but very cheeky chappie. I managed quite a few anecdotes & even had to pause at one point, to allow the laughter to die down before continuing. A few others followed with other entertaining stories. Paul certainly lived life to the full & I think we did him proud.

The hotel where the function took place & where I stayed overnight was a very interesting & old place; The White Horse, Romsey. Its origins go back to 1450, so definitely NOT a modern hotel! There has however recently been very significant investment, to make it a very pleasant place to stay; as long as you can sleep OK on a sloping floor!

We have the Brill Windmill weekend coming up on the 9-10th May, which should be the usual interesting & enjoyable time. I hope a good few of you are able to attend for at least some of the weekend. Lets hope the weather is good? Do remember though that inside the brick base of the windmill, is likely to be -5deg or worse compared with outside! I have compared it to a Victorian Ice House. With no damp course the bricks (nice soft porous Buckinghamshire bricks!) wick up the ground moisture, which is then evaporated by the wind. Think back to your school science days & the 'Latent heat of vaporisation'; i.e. it takes lots of energy (heat) to turn a liquid into a gas at the same temperature. Therefore we have in essence a refrigerator surrounding the HF operators!

Until next month,

73 all, Dave K, G8FMC (Chairman & Contest Coordinator)

UKAC's 2026: (CDARS + Associate members only)

The usual waiting game, but some results of last month are in. We have now slipped to 4th overall, but still heading up 2m & 70cm. NRC are still holding the 4m top spot.

80m CC Series (Northampton):

John G4CZB (Northampton) continues to hold 2nd place behind G4PIQ in this series, using the G8N club call for NRC. I have switched to the 10W Unassisted category to join John. It is looking like I may have slightly increased my Normalised scores by doing so? Since I tend to be a bit of a wimp on 80m & am usually S&P, it means my normal technique is largely unchanged. I have been surprised that although a few more calls is sometimes needed to get a response from the 'Running' station, the difference is not as great as expected? Just shows that 10W works if there are not many 100W stations calling at the same time. I have a reasonably decent full length antenna on 80m which is a big plus over those running a seriously compromised/compact antenna.

VHF Championship:

Hereford are going for this one in 2026 & are comfortably in top spot, after just the March 144/432MHz event. CDARS is in 2nd place, but we are likely to drop back as other events unfold. I am not pushing folks this year as we are unlikely to be able to challenge Hereford without reduced team size.

For those interested the 432MHz Trophy is on Saturday 2nd May. Possibly the last of our competitive scores?

UBA DX Contest:

This was a contest back at the end of January organised by the chaps from 'ON' land. It was primarily for ON stations to work as many DX stations as possible. DX stations (us, i.e. non-ON) had to collect regional indicators (a bit like post-codes). I had a very minimal dabble in this with just 21 QSO's (Predominantly 40m & 20m) & did not even bother to put it on my Spread-sheet of contest results. I was thus a bit surprised to get an email recently with a Certificate attached. 2nd place in England & 52nd Worldwide seemed quite good? It turns out that this contest was not very well supported & my 52nd Worldwide was out of just 64 entries in my category! (Single Operator, All Band High Power) Further analysis of the results revealed that my 2nd place in England was out of 2!

Ah well, I participated & entered a log to help cross-checking. The Adjudicators of any contest do appreciate an entry or 'check-log' to help them cross-refer & score the logs.

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In the Commonwealth Contest John G4CZB from NRC did manage to bag the highest 'G' entry in his category (Single Op, low power unassisted). Good effort John.

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CQ.WW.WPX contest:

On the weekend of 28-29 March the CQ WW WPX (Worldwide, World Prefix) was on. This is billed as "The largest anyone can work anyone SSB event in the year". I gave the old club call of G3MDG a bit of an airing, on & off over the weekend.

I made 257 QSO's in 179 wpx, mainly on 40m & 80m, with some 20m. 40m seems to be my best band where I have the option of a horizontal wire & a vertical for the longer skip DX. I do not have any dedicated antennas for 10m & 15m, although I can use the ATU to get a reasonable match on my other antennas, the efficiency is poor & I struggle to be heard.

On 40m I seem to be able to be heard over the top of many other stations. Quite a few USA stations, some Canada & a good number from South American countries. On 20m where I have a Delta Loop, China & Japan were rare ones for me. On HF any bit of wire will receive, but a decent TX antenna makes an enormous difference. The lead stations (Multi band & multi Op) were exchanging serial numbers over 5,000 during the later stages. That makes my 257 look a bit pathetic!

VHF Field Day is not so far ahead & we intend to try to get a 'Hat-trick' 3rd successive win in the MS category, in the usual Wigginton field. Put 4-5th July in your diaries. We are likely to do the initial mast erection on the afternoon/evening of Friday 3rd July.

73, Dave K, G8FMC

Contest Calendar for May & June 2026

May - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	11 May	1900-2030	80m CC SSB
Mon	18 May	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Wed	20 May	1900-2030	80m CC DATA
Thu	28 May	1900-2030	80m CC CW

May - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	02-03 May	1400-1400	May 432MHz-245GHz Contest
Sat	02 May	1400-2000	432MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	05 May	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	05 May	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	06 May	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	06 May	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	08 May	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	10 May	900-1200	70MHz Contest CW
Tue	12 May	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	12 May	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	13 May	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 Hours)
Wed	13 May	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 Hours)
Sun	17 May	1100-1500	1st 144MHz Backpackers
Sun	16-17 May	0800-1400	144MHz May Contest
Tue	19 May	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	21 May	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sun	24 May	0800-1400	10GHz Trophy Contest
Tue	26 May	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

June - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	01 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC DATA
Sat-Sun	06-07 Jun	1500-1500	National Field Day
Wed	10 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC CW
Mon	15 Jun	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	25 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC SSB

June - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	02 Jun	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	02 Jun	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	03 Jun	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	03 Jun	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Tue	09 Jun	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	09 Jun	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	10 Jun	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	10 Jun	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	11 Jun	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	14 Jun	900-1300	2nd 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	16 Jun	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	18 Jun	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sat-Sun	20-21 Jun	1400-1400	50MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	23 Jun	1830-2130	SHF UKAC
Sun	28 Jun	900-1200	50MHz Contest CW

Dates For Your Diary



CDARS Net and Club Meetings Dates

(Start times are all at 8pm unless otherwise noted)

May 2026

6th - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

13th - Informal Meeting at The Golden Eagle, Ashley Green

20th - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

27th - Formal Meeting at Ashley Green Memorial Hall.

Slow Morse most Thursdays at 14.45 BST on 144.060MHz SSB

Listed below are dates of RSGB, UK and International contests for April 2026

ARI International DX Contest - 1200Z, May 2 to 1159Z, May 3

MIE 33 Contest - 2300Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5

VOLTA WW RTTY Contest - 1200Z, May 9 to 1200Z, May 10

CQ-M International DX Contest - 1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon - 1200Z, May 9 to 2359Z, May 10

NZART Sangster Shield Contest - 0800Z-1100Z, May 16

EU PSK DX Contest - 1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17

Baltic Contest - 2100Z, May 16 to 0200Z, May 17

His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW -1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17

QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint - 0000Z-0100Z, May 25

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW - 0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 31

Full details and more contests at: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Please double check dates, start/end times etc in good time prior to the event.

Radio Rally Dates.

Full details of the events are available in Radcom & the RSGB website.

May 2026

4th - Dartmoor Spring Radio Rally - The Yelverton War Memorial Hall, Meavy Lane, Yelverton. Devon, PL20 6AL

9th - Barry Amateur Radio Society Rally - Sully Sports and Social Club, South Road, Sully, CF64 5SP.

16th - East Midlands Ham and Electronics Rally - Beckingham Village Hall, Southfield Lane, Beckingham (nr. Gainsborough), DN10 4FX.

17th - Dunstable Downs Radio Rally - Stockwood Park in Dunstable.



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17th - Lough Erne ARC Radio Rally - Share Discovery Village, 221 Lisnaskea Road, Lisnaskea, Enniskillen BT92 0JZ.

24th - Durham & District ARS Radio Rally - Bowburn community centre, Bowburn, Co Durham, DH6 5AT.

June 2026

7th - Spalding & DARS Annual Radio Rally - Spalding Rugby and Football Club Centenary Park, Drain Bank North, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6AF.

14th - Mendips Radio Rally - Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Farrington Gurney BS39 6UA.

14th - Junction 28 Radio Rally, The Post Mill Centre, South Normanton, Derbyshire. DE55 2EJ

20th - Rochdale & District Amateur Radio Summer Rally - St. Vincent de Paul's Hall, Norden, Rochdale, OL12 7QR.

21st - Suffolk Wireless Revival (Ipswich Radio Rally) Kirton Recreation Ground, Back Road, Kirton, IP10 0PW (off A14).

28th - Cornish Radio Amateur Club Rally - Penair School, Truro.

August 2026

9th - Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest, Cobham Sports & Social Club Ground, Merly, Nr Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3DA.

October 2026

11th - Annual Hornsea Rally, Driffeld Showground YO25 9FB

25th - Galashiels Radio & Computer Rally, The Volunteer Hall, St. Johns Street, Galashiels, TD1 3JX.

(All information courtesy of Radcom & the RSGB website)

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale: Wouxun KG-UV6D Two-way radio. £30.00 (See pic right)

2m (5W) and 70cm (4W).

In original box with charger, handbook and a replacement for lost antenna.

Transceiver works well but I can't guarantee the battery life which appears OK.

Contact: 07909783027 or email g8mfh@aol.com.
You can also find me at the club meetings.

Bob G8MFH



SK sale of the shack contents of the late Bryan M0IHY (Items with Dave G8FMC)

ITEM	ASKING PRICE or O.V.N.O.
1. Power Mag 145 – large magnetic mount + cable (new £30) New & boxed.	£20 (<i>price reduced</i>)
2. Comet CHA-250HD/BXII Multi-Band HF Vertical Antenna (new £350) 250W SSB 75W Data. See March 2024 PW review. As new, unused	£220
5. Modified Cobweb antenna (Polish) (new £200)	£70
6. Sangean ATS-909X2 all-band portable receiver £225 ish new boxed	£150
7. QRM Eliminator X-phase 1-30MHz - £45 new	£25
8. Kent Straight key	£65
9. CW Keyer TC 701 - £70 new	£45
10. Soldering Station (basic) 60W	Offers
11. IGEN Max regenerative receiver. eBay US has an unbuilt kit at £160.	£50
12. Lead-free solder & cleaner (in bag)	Offers
14. Austcol Radiation Meter MT525 -£25 online average price new.	£10
16. Metro VNA in case (£270 new)	£175
18. Prepp Comm multi-band morse transceiver. Approx £358 new.	£225
19. MFJ Super Hi-Q Loop Remote Control . Unknown model.	Offers
20. QRP Kits EFHW Tuner	Offers

Please initially contact Dave G8FMC if interested in any item :- g8fmc547@gmail.com

